



# Mullins Messenger

Mullins United Methodist Church

4 North Mendenhall Road

Memphis, TN 38117-2631

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[www.mullinsumc.org](http://www.mullinsumc.org)

December 2025

**Dear Church Family,**

I pray that each of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. As I reflect on this season, my heart is full of gratitude for the grace God has shown to Elaine, our family, our extended loved ones, and to each of you—our beloved church family.

We are deeply thankful for your warmth, your support, your honesty, and your wisdom. Most of all, we thank God for how you continue to live into our mission statement:

“We are the hands and feet of Jesus, loving our church family and cherishing our diverse community through worship, study, service, and witness.”

Your acts of grace—large and small—continue to open the doors of our church as a place of refuge in these challenging times. You show our community what it means to belong to the People of the Way. You embody compassion. You embody courage. You embody Christ.

As we enter Advent, the season of preparation leading to the celebration of Christ’s birth, I invite you to meditate with me on the stewardship of the light God has placed within us.

Jesus said: “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

He also said: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples—if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

Thank you for your stewardship of light and love, even while boisterous winds and raging waters swirl around us as reflected in our recent message on the Stewardship of Deliverance. Yet you remain steady. You remain faithful. You continue to let your light shine.

You remind me that in Christ, every round goes higher and higher. Each year, each season, each step on the Road of Life brings us deeper into His grace and closer to His purpose.

So, as we move forward together:

- Keep the faith.
- Be good stewards of God’s grace and providence.
- Continue to practice acts of kindness, even in turbulent times.
- Let the light of Christ shine in you and through you.

Together, by God’s grace, we continue to travel on the Road of Life to Eternal Life, through every season—hopeful, delivered, and victorious.

Peace & Blessings,

**Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow**



## Advent 2025!

The season of Advent began Nov. 30, with the lighting of the first Advent candles in our 8:30 and 10:50 services. *Join us as the joyous journey continues into December!*



### UWF Lunch & Sale

Mullins UWF will gather at 11:30 am Tuesday, Dec. 2, for lunch at the Women's Exchange. Joy to all! **Margaret Brown** (Check out our Card Sale for missions in Hall of Apostles! Thanks to Emily Pittman for help with card design.)

### "Litter Mates" Dec. 6

Our final 2025 clean-up will be at 10 am Saturday, Dec. 6, at Grahamwood Elementary. Coffee, donuts and equipment provided. Join us for a holiday gift to the community!

### Home Communion Dec. 7

Mullins offers Holy Communion to members who are homebound on the first Sunday of each month. Our next visits will be Dec. 7!

### "Remembrance Tree" Dec. 7

Join us in the Chapel at 3 pm Sunday, Dec. 7, for a "Remembrance Tree" service for family members or friends who have passed away. You may remember a special one by placing an ornament on the tree. (You may write your loved one's name on an ornament you already have or we will provide one for you.) The brief service will be followed by a reception with refreshments. We hope you'll join us and share good memories. **Harriett Montgomery**  
Grief Support Group



### UMNC 'Wish List'

Through United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, Mullins has chosen **Danerio**, a 17-year-old from a homeless family, to receive gifts totaling \$150 from a holiday "wish list." Please give donations to **Brenda Carson**. (Any extra funds collected will go to UMNC.)

## Manza a Leza

Shop the great Maanza a Leza "Jewelry and More" sale in the Hall of Apostles Dec. 7 & 14 for special holiday gifts. Proceeds benefit our ministry to children in the Zambian village of Sichebeya!

(Thank you to all who supported our recent Soup-to-Go fundraiser & the Fall Bake Sale)



### Children's Ministry

Children at Mullins are preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus in many creative ways! Watch for special gifts from the children during Advent worship services!



### Community Orchestra

Mullins Community Orchestra members are sharing their musical gifts during Advent. They'll perform at Kirby Pines on Dec. 18, play for the **Salvation Army** "Day of Ringing" Dec. 19, and participate in worship at Mullins Dec. 21!



### Staff Retirement!

Mullins bids a very fond farewell to **Susan Tutt**, long-time administrative assistant. (See letter p. 5) We welcome interim assistant **Elaine Winn** in this period of transition.

### Year-End Announcements



#### "Litter Mates" Hiatus

Litter Mates will take a Jan.-Feb. winter break. Happy New Year! **Emily Pittman**

#### Grief Support Group

Our group will not have regular Dec. - Jan. meetings, but we welcome inquiries any time. Blessings to all! **Harriet Montgomery**

#### Mullins Chess Club

We're on a holiday break, but starting Jan. 6 and every Tuesday thereafter (except holidays) we'll meet from 6 pm to 7 pm at the Main Library. **Greg Forsyth, 901-462-1097**

#### Golden Cross Key Women

After finishing 2,000 stockings, plus game prize bags, we will not meet again until Feb.!



## Cantata Dec. 14

The Mullins Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Cantata at 4 pm Sunday, Dec. 14. Invite family and friends to join us for this joyous occasion!

## Pledge Card Sunday

A friendly reminder: Please turn in Commitment Cards for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign during worship Dec. 14!

## Christmas Eve Worship

At 5 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 24, there will be a special candlelight service in the Chapel. Invite family and friends to join us!

The service will conclude with a procession to the church steps by those who are able to stay and sing carols for a time, weather permitting!

*O Come Let Us Adore Him!*

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Name .....	Date
Taylor Richardson .....	1
Susan Sharp .....	1
Stephanie Mason .....	1
Mary Anne Sullivan .....	5
Charles Bradley .....	8
Christopher McNeil .....	9
Suzanne Ruleman Sorrentino .....	10
Vicki Rush .....	11
Lana Marler .....	11
Ava Mae Webb .....	12
Carolyn McCutcheon Carter .....	12
Ann Smith .....	16
James Williams .....	17
Olivia Lyons .....	20

John Taylor .....	21
Debi Gray .....	24
Jenny Eggers .....	25
Robert Love .....	29
Colleen McNeil .....	29
Levi Lienhard .....	30
Michael Pittman .....	31

### Anniversaries

Bob & Cyndi Watkins .....	8
Dave & Margaret Brown .....	9
Charles & Kathy Carter .....	10
Taylor & Mary Beth Richardson .....	17
Charles & Camille Bradley .....	20
Wayne & Brenda Carson .....	21





## *Holiday Highlights!*

**Mullins Girl Scout Troop 10433  
Feeds the Hungry at St. John's!**



**Fall Bake Sale**



**Golden Cross stockings for seniors!**

**Christmas Card Sale**



**Special Service**

**Children's Message**





## December Worship

10:50 Worship services are live-streamed

December 7– 2nd Sunday in Advent

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

December 14— 3rd Sunday in Advent

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

Altar Flowers: *Poinsettias*

December 21 – 4th Sunday in Advent

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow*

Altar Flowers: *Poinsettias*

December 28

Message: *Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow*

Ushers: Johnny Welch, head usher, and  
the Men of the Friends & Followers Class

Liturgist: Terrye Mastin

Communion Offering: **Jacob's Well**

### *Gratitude for Food!*

Mullins gives thanks for recent congregational donations to address food insecurity, including (1) our November communion offering for **Mid-South Food Bank** & (2) gift cards for Thanksgiving meals through **United Methodist Neighborhood Centers!**

Additionally, we thank long-time Mullins supporters of the **St. John's** food ministry, which provides Saturday meals for the hungry and homeless.

*(See photo p.4 and note below)*

### **Note of Thanks!**

A huge thank you to all of the faithful Mullins volunteers who continue to support **St. John's!** A special thank you to Mrs. **Katie** and Miss **Charlotte Williams** and Girl Scout **Troop 10433** for fully supporting our October commitment date for this ministry!

**Maggie Lyons**

### **Altar Flowers**

The 2026 flower calendar is posted outside the office. Sign up to honor loved ones with flowers (\$75 per arrangement).

## Monthly Prayer List

### Recent Concerns:

Molly Tracy

Gere Scruggs

Lisa Johns

Lucy Townsend

Carmen Brown

Diana Wright

Bill Tutt

*(The complete prayer list is located at church entries.  
Please contact office with any changes or additions)*

### *Sympathy*

\* To **Frances Speer** and family in the loss of her husband and our brother in Christ, **Charles Speer**.

### *Blessings*

\* To **Susan Tutt** on her retirement.  
*(See below)*

### *Letter of Farewell*

Friends, Due to my husband's health condition, I must retire after almost 39 years here at Mullins UMC. We both appreciate the many prayers and expressions of concern over the past several months . . . There are no words to express how much you all mean to me. Your friendship has enriched my life in so many ways, and I will always treasure these relationships. Mullins will always have a place in my heart . . .

With love, **Susan Tutt**

### **Special Gifts**

In memory of Charles Speer by Carolyn Childs, Barbara Kercher, Lamplighter Class  
In memory of Helen & John Russell, John Russell III, & Bob Russell by Nan & Mike Woody and family

### **On Site Presence**

	Nov 22	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30
8:30 am Chapel	----	17-----	17 ----	16-----	18---NA
10:50 Worship	----	89----	68 ---	70-----	78---NA

### **e-Giving**

You may give online from our website, by clicking the Give Here link. You also may text "Mullins" to 73256.



# December Calendar

## Monthly Meetings & Special Events

Monday, Dec. 1—Adm Council, 6 pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 2—UWF Lunch  
—Trustees, 6 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 7—2nd Sunday in Advent  
—Homebound Communion  
—MaL Sale  
—Girl Scouts, 2 pm  
—Remembrance Tree, 3 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 14—3rd Sunday in Advent  
—Pledge Card Sunday  
—MaL Sale  
—Christmas Cantata, 4 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 18—Comm. Orch., Kirby Pines  
Friday, Dec. 19—Comm. Orch., “Day of Ringing”  
Sunday, Dec. 21—4th Sunday in Advent  
Tuesday, Dec. 23—Office Closed  
Wednesday, Dec. 24—Office Closed  
—Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm  
Thursday, Dec. 25—Office closed -- *Christmas!*  
Wednesday, Dec. 31—2025 Donations Deadline\*



## LOOKING AHEAD to 2026

Jan. 1—Office closed, *Happy New Year*  
Jan. 4—Epiphany Sunday, Home Communion  
Jan. 6—United Women in Faith  
Jan. TBA—Installation of church officers

## General Weekly Schedule

(check for holiday changes)

### Sunday

8:30 am, Chapel service  
9:45 am, Sunday School  
10:50 am, Worship, Sanctuary



### Wednesday

11 am, Women's Prayer Grp., Gym Classroom  
12 Noon, Pastor's Bible study  
6:00 pm, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday

6:30 pm, Community Orchestra rehearsal

## \*Year-End Reminder

Please fulfill 2025 pledges before year end.  
All contributions must be received or postmarked  
by Dec. 31. Office hours are limited so plan accordingly.

O Come, O Come,  
Emmanuel

## Staff Contact Information

### Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow  
russell@mullinsumc.org

### Financial & Membership Administrator

Lisa Crawford  
lisa@mullinsumc.org

### Director of Music Ministries

Terrell Hall  
terrell@mullinsumc.org

### Musical Accompanist

Rebecca McGuire  
rebecca@mullinsumc.org

### Interim Administrative Assistant

Elaine Winn  
elaine@mullinsumc.org

The Mullins Messenger is prepared electronically and posted on the first of each month on the Mullins web site. Printed copies are available through the church office. Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 22.

## Job Posting

### Director of Children's Ministry

Mullins United Methodist Church is seeking a passionate and creative Part-Time Director of Children's Ministry to nurture the spiritual growth of our youngest members. The Director will lead and coordinate programs for children (infant through 6th grade), including Sunday School, children's worship, special events, and outreach activities. **Responsibilities include:** Planning and leading weekly children's ministry programs and events; Recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers; Partnering with families to foster faith development at home; Ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for all children. **Qualifications:** A growing personal faith in Jesus Christ; Experience working with children in a church or educational setting; Strong organizational and communication skills; Ability to work collaboratively with staff and volunteers. This is a part-time position (~20 hours per week), with opportunities for feasibility in some aspects of scheduling. To apply please send resume and cover letter to: **Jennifer McGee**, Chair, Staff/Parish Relations Committee Email: seeley.jennifer@gmail.com